Strangeness Arising

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Chapter 1 by Niltiac

Lio had been depressed for a month. He needed comfort, not solitude. All his friends had agreed (without his permission) to leave Lio alone, because apparently you can't be friends with a kid whose parents just passed away a month ago.

Lio was on the verge between desperation and last resort: death. His parents always told him not to do it, but they were gone. Even the police didn't know what happened to them, except the conclusion that a wolf ate them, although there were no wolves. In this year of 4032, the only animals that existed were cows, pigs, and chickens.

But when a shady figure came up to him and promised happiness if they met in the artificial forest of Central Park, Lio readily agreed. He would do anything to be happy again, even trust a shady old man.

At midnight the next day, he arrived under the shadow of the huge oak tree in the park.

The silhouette of the stranger emerged from the darkness of the forest. "You've come, Lio," the shady figure smiled.

Oh, did he mention that he gave his name to a stranger, too?

The stranger tossed him a packet. Lio withdrew a single, small pill from the packet.

Then all that he did hit him.

1) he talked to a stranger. 2) he met with the stranger in a place where no one could hear them. 3) he gave the stranger his name. 4) the stranger could be giving him drugs for all he knew. 5) he didn't even know what the man's face looked like- it was always covered in shadow.

Lio looked down at the pill, shrugged, then tossed it to the ground.

Suddenly, the stranger came up behind him, with a knife in his hand, the sharp edge jabbing into

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